

Minutes of Meeting
Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission
March 1, 2023

Members Present: Chuck Pell, Chairman
Bob Sherman, Vice Chairman
Thomas Bazan
Tabitha Bock
Tina Lathan
Aakash Raut
Dean Williams

Members Absent: Molly Berns, Mike Brooks, & Jeanette Goza

Staff Present: Emily Prather

Call to Order: A quorum being present, Chairman Pell called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Pell entertained a motion to approve the February minutes. A motion to approve the February minutes was made by Commissioner Sherman and was seconded by Commissioner Williams. The voice vote to approve was unanimous.

Chairman's Report/Comments: Chairman Pell noted no information has been received from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) regarding the CLG grant applications. Chairman Pell noted the Commission still needs to have conversations with the consultants to determine the cost of the surveying project. Chairman Pell noted all the Commissioners should have received a copy of the annual report. Chairman Pell noted Commissioners who do not have Adobe Acrobat may not have been able to scroll within certain sections to see what was typed in the form, but commented that it is the form that IDNR provided. Chairman Pell noted staff member Prather has sent out various educational opportunities for the Commissioners. Chairman Pell reminded the Commission that if anyone sees anything out in the county that looks interesting to complete a survey. Chairman Pell stated if any of the surveys are exciting then the Commission would want to consider possible landmarking.

Old Business: Chairman Pell stated Commissioner Bazan had presented his edits to the barn book at the last meeting and then staff member Prather sent them to everyone through WeTransfer. Chairman Pell requested staff member Prather send the WeTransfer link again to those Commissioners who did not previously download the PDF and encouraged the Commissioners to look in their junk or spam folders if they do not see it in their inbox. Chairman Pell noted he will take Commissioner Bazan's notes and incorporate them with the draft barn book and hopefully have an updated draft for the next meeting. Commissioner Sherman asked if some Commissioners get together to go over the barn book if that would constitute a public meeting. Staff member Prather noted once three Commissioners get together it would constitute a public meeting under the Open Meetings Act.

Chairman Pell noted he has been corresponding with the consultants but has not gotten back specific survey project costs. Chairman Pell noted that if the grant application is made available, the Commission will have to get approval from the Finance Committee of the Sangamon County Board. Chairman Pell noted Commissioner Goza was told that the end of February or beginning of March would be when the grant application would be made available for 30 days but as of yet,

that has not happened. Chairman Pell noted the Commission may have to rethink the project scope if the project cost estimates from the consultants come back too high to be successfully awarded a grant. Chairman Pell asked staff member Prather when the Finance Committee meetings would be. Staff member Prather reported that the Finance Committee meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month but noted the Commission would need the grant application ready by the Thursday before those meetings to be included in the agenda packet that would be sent out to the Finance Committee. Chairman Pell noted previously Jon Pressley with IDNR had indicated staffing shortages have made it hard to get the CLG grant application out.

Chairman Pell commended Commissioner Lathan for working hard on the annual report. Commissioner Lathan asked about whether to include Commissioner Williams' project with the Sheriff's office and it was noted to include that project in the 2023 annual report. Chairman Pell noted after the Commission approves the annual report it can be sent to IDNR and the Sangamon County Board. Chairman Pell sought a motion to approve the 2022 annual report as submitted. A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Lathan and was seconded by Commission Bazan. The voice vote to approve was unanimous. Chairman Pell again thanked Commissioner Lathan for all her effort to complete the annual report.

New Business: None

Initial Recommendation for New Landmark Applications: None

Member Reports: Chairman Pell noted the covered bridge in Ball Township was on a cover for a book Commissioner Sherman had with him and noted no survey had been done yet for the covered bridge. Chairman Pell stated that would be a good survey for the Commissioner assigned to Ball Township to complete.

Commissioner Bazan stated he has reached out to Representative LaHood's office and will be reaching out the Senator Durbin's office regarding the bill to designate Route 66 as a national historic trail.

Commissioner Williams reported he completed a recruitment video for the Sheriff's office and showed the Commission five minutes of the one-hour video. Commissioner Bazan noted the video should be included in the 2023 annual report.

Staff Reports: None

Public Comment: None

Additional Comments: None

Adjourn: Chairman Pell entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sherman made a motion to adjourn the March meeting with Commissioner Bock seconding the motion. The voice vote to approve was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 4:41 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Emily Prather